

TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. Selectmen present were Janet Smith and Wes Moore. Others present were Chief Reed, Lt. Anne Gould, Reuben Hull, Brian Knipstein, and Adam Chestnut (Project Engineer for NHDOT).

The Chief advised the Board that the DUI and Speed Grants are available. If the town is interested he will apply for them. The total funds must be expended from the Police Department Budget before it is reimbursed by the Grant. The DUI stops are usually on weekends (in addition to regular patrols) and they total approximately 60 hours. Janet and Wes gave the Chief their approval.

In the fall of last year Chief Reed asked to hire another Full-Time officer to replace the three part time officers that would be leaving. Currently there are three Full-Time officers, and nine part-time officers. Janet expressed concern with the cost of health care, vacation time, sick time etc, and the department will still need part-timer officers. She asked that the board look into this in more detail before another Full-Time officer is hired. It was decided at that time that benchmarking would be the best way to look at the department.

Chief Reed and Anne Gould were in attendance for the first meeting of the benchmarking session. There was some discussion on what benchmarking means, and the Chief had some questions on what the board is looking for. The Chief and the board will be working collaboratively in the coming weeks and the board will make a decision soon on what is best fiscally and responsibly for the Town.

Reuben Hull was in to discuss Map 104-11 on 52 Piscassic Road. The ditch and erosion controls on Piscassic Road are not working and the driveway culvert is partially clogged. A portion of this parcel is in the Flood Zone with two underground streams that come together towards the front of the parcel. The property owner contacted DES and has spoken with Reuben about her concerns regarding the standing water on her property near the culvert. Reuben believes that this water is not from the nearby Evergreen Estates subdivision, but is a result of the State not maintaining the swales or culvert ditch. Another resident complained to the State last year regarding a similar problem with his culvert. The two properties affected are in the State's Right of Way. According to the Newfields Road Agent, Evergreen Estates is in compliance with regards to the drainage they have installed. The Selectmen will review this again along with Reuben.

Adam Chestnut from the State DOT was in to discuss Railroad Avenue with the Selectmen, Brian Knipstein, and Reuben Hull. DOT is getting ready to pave RR Ave, but Brian had some concerns about how that should be done.

The project has run out of money and Adam would like to: A) repair major

deficiency areas by cutting out and patching pavement, level course of pavement on low areas, 1" overlay over entire roadway from Hervey Ct. to joint before RR crossing. This Option was rejected by the Selectmen, Brian and Reuben.

The 2nd option B) Town of Newfields pays JGE to reclaim Railroad Avenue and Grade the roadway. NHDOT then pays to pave the roadway with 2" of binder. The amount they are asking from the Town is \$6,800.

At 7:43pm Janet made a motion to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:31 II. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed.

At 7:55pm the public session was re-convened.

As a plan C. Wes asked Adam if the State would be willing to pay the Town the \$14,000 they planned on spending on repairing Railroad Avenue, that would allow the Town to do the work at a later date. Part of the issue is that the State needs to do the work quickly in order to close out the project. Adam is going to find out if this is a possible option and he will be in contact with the board, and the Road Agent.

The Elderly Exemptions were reviewed. Fourteen applications were received. Thirteen were approved and one application was denied because it was above the asset limit. The Selectman notified the applicant that was denied via telephone and letters will also be mailed to all applicants.

The thirteen approved applications were signed by the Selectmen.

The Selectmen decided to send Nancy Spencer to the ADS Conference on June 1st. Janet will also attend, subject to a prior commitment on that date.

Wes made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2006 meeting with changes noted. Janet seconded the motion and it passed with all in favor.

The thank you letter from the American Red Cross for the Town's donation was read.

The Newfields School District MS-22 was reviewed.

The MS-2 report to the New Hampshire Department of Revenue was signed.

The letter to the Meadow Road resident with a damaged culvert was read.

Hometown Oil sent a letter asking to be included on the bidder list for fuel needs.

The correspondence from Fran Lane with regard to the Piscassic Greenway purchase was read.

The Comcast contract expires in 2007. Bill Davis agreed to chair the committee for the renewal or replacement contract. Our thanks to Bill for volunteering for this project.

A resident complained about Real Estate signs on the southwest corner of Main Street and Piscassic Road. This parcel is owned by the State of New Hampshire and is not subject to control by the Town.

Another complaint was received regarding a resident parking on town owned land. The Selectmen asked Nancy to write to the resident asking him/her to park elsewhere.

At 9:20pm Wes made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Janet and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer